

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact
August 18, 2000**

PURPOSE: Review salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon stock status and consider treaty Indian and non-Indian fishing options.

TAC: The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed this Fact Sheet.

Management Guidelines

Endangered Species Act

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</i>		
Species - <i>ESU</i>	Designation	Effective Date
<u>Federally Listed Species</u>		
<u>Chinook</u>		
<i>Snake River Fall</i>	Threatened	May 22, 1992
<i>Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Chum</u>		
<i>Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Steelhead</u>		
<i>Snake River</i>	Threatened	October 17, 1997
<i>Upper Columbia River</i>	Endangered	October 17, 1997
<i>Middle Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<i>Lower Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<u>Cutthroat Trout</u>		
<i>Southwest Washington</i>	Proposed Threatened	Decision due October 5, 2000
<u>Oregon State Listed Species</u>		
<u>Coho</u>		
<i>Lower Columbia</i>	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- The Biological Opinion concerning proposed non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries during August 1-December 31, 2000 was signed by the National Marine Fisheries Service on July 13, 2000.

2000 Management Agreement

- On July 13, 2000 the parties reached agreement on management of upper Columbia River fall chinook, steelhead, and coho for August 1 through December 31, 2000.
- The 2000 fall season fisheries in the Columbia River below the Snake River will be managed for a 30% reduction in the harvest rate of SRW fall chinook relative to the 1988-1993 base period, as represented by a 31.29% harvest rate index of the aggregate URB run.

- The parties' intent is to allocate the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.
- The treaty Indian fall fishery on steelhead will be managed not to exceed a 15% harvest rate on wild Group B index steelhead. Non-Indian mainstem fall fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 2% harvest impact on wild Group B index steelhead.

Sturgeon Allocation

- Sturgeon fisheries between the Columbia River mouth and Bonneville Dam during 2000-2002 are guided by a Sturgeon Fishery Management Accord signed by the ODFW and WDFW Directors in March 2000.

<i>Major Tenets of the Joint State Accord on 2000-2002 Columbia River Sturgeon Fishery Management</i>	
✓	Management based on optimum sustained yield approach.
✓	Absent significant update, annual harvestable number is 50,000.
✓	Harvestable number may be adjusted if there is a significant population update resulting from new biological information, new analytical/theoretical approach, or a substantial change in harvest impacts outside of the Columbia Basin.
✓	Allocates white sturgeon harvestable number 80% sport (40,000) and 20% commercial (10,000).
✓	Sport and commercial seasons will be modified as necessary to ensure that average catch during the three-year period (2000-2002) does not exceed fishery specific harvestable number.
✓	Commercial target seasons are allowed as necessary to access allocation and maximize economic benefit consistent with conservation objectives for other species.
✓	Green sturgeon may be taken during white sturgeon commercial seasons but green sturgeon-only commercial seasons are not allowed and green sturgeon catch rate is not to exceed historical rates.
✓	Commercial size limits are 48"-60" for white sturgeon and 48"-66" for green sturgeon.
✓	Recreational size limit for white and green sturgeon is 42"-60" with one fish daily limit, ten fish annual (per calendar year) limit, and barbless hooks required.

- For the fall sport fishery in 2000 sturgeon retention is prohibited in the area below Wauna powerlines (river mile 40) during September 1-15.
- The Sturgeon Management Task Force develops management goals and guidelines for both treaty Indian and non-Indian fisheries in the Zone 6 management area based on current stock assessment data.

<i>Catch Guidelines for Fisheries in the Zone 6 Management Area</i>			
Pool	Recreational	Treaty Commercial	Total
Bonneville	1,520	1,300	2,820
The Dalles	600-800	1,000-1,200	1,600-2,000
John Day	560	1,160	1,720
Total	2,680-2,880	3,460-3,660	6,140-6,540

2000 Stock Status

Group A Summer Steelhead

Summer Steelhead Dam Counts					
		August 16 Daily	Cumulative through August 16		
			2000	1999	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Skamania Index	----	16,542	7,162	9,508
	Group A Index	4,430	129,194	98,804	92,156
	Group B Index	80	2,575	1,566	1,837
	Total Counts	4,510	148,311	107,532	103,501
The Dalles		1,508	53,338	52,006	36,989
John Day		500	35,245	38,036	25,691
McNary		287	25,954	19,990	18,424
Ice Harbor		48	11,349	9,053	8,689
Lower Granite		150	4,796	2,959	2,766
Priest Rapids		90	3,867	1,788	1,529

- A total of 16,542 summer steelhead passed Bonneville Dam during April 1 - June 30 (Skamania index) which was the largest total since 1990 and nearly doubled the recent 5-year average of 9,500.
- Group A index counts are tracking better than pre-season expectations. Typically about 50% of the Group A index steelhead pass Bonneville Dam by August 16.
- Through August 13 sampling data at Bonneville Dam indicates that wild fish have comprised 39% of the Group A index count.
- On August 16 Bonneville Dam flow was 174.5 kcfs which is 116% of the recent 10-year average of 150.6 kcfs. Water temperature was 70°F which is less than the recent 10-year average of 71.4°F.
- To date 36% of the steelhead passing Bonneville Dam have crossed The Dalles Dam which is 106% of the recent 10-year average of 34%.
- Steelhead sampling at Priest Rapids Dam through Aug 10 shows 32% wild based on 250 fish sampled.
- Through August 16 Group B index returns have totaled 2,600 fish. On average 9% of the Group B index return has passed Bonneville Dam by August 16.

<i>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</i>										
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total
1984	52,400	27	143,300	73	195,700	13,800	14	84,200	86	98,000
1985	51,900	18	229,600	82	281,500	13,000	32	27,900	68	40,900
1986	56,600	20	230,900	80	287,500	10,000	16	54,000	84	64,000
1987	106,700	45	131,600	55	238,300	14,000	31	31,000	69	45,000
1988	64,300	37	108,800	63	173,100	17,700	22	63,900	78	81,600
1989	57,500	30	135,600	70	193,100	12,400	16	65,200	84	77,600
1990	27,100	23	88,500	77	115,600	8,800	17	38,400	83	47,200
1991	60,300	26	173,800	74	234,100	6,200	22	22,100	78	28,300
1992	44,300	18	197,200	82	241,500	12,700	22	44,700	78	57,400
1993	28,600	21	108,100	79	136,700	4,400	12	31,800	88	36,200
1994	21,200	18	99,800	82	121,000	5,200	20	22,300	80	27,500
1995	26,000	14	154,000	86	180,000	1,800	14	11,400	86	13,200
1996	25,700	15	148,600	85	174,300	3,900	21	14,900	79	18,800
1997	30,900	15	177,400	85	208,300	3,900	11	32,700	89	3,600
1998	34,800	26	99,900	74	134,700	3,400	8	36,800	92	40,200
1999	56,600	32	119,800	68	176,400	3,700	17	18,400	83	22,100
2000 Proj.	52,700	25	157,300	75	210,000	11,000	33	22,800	67	33,800

Fall Chinook

<i>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</i>				
Stock	1995-1999 Average	1999 Return	2000 Preseason Forecast	Comments
URB	144,100	166,100	208,200	Largest since 1989
SRW	1,800	2,739	1,764	Average
MCB	47,800	49,600	58,400	Above average
BPH	32,900	50,200	26,900	Average
LRH	52,700	40,000	26,400	Record low, hatchery cuts
LRW	10,700	3,300	2,700	Record low, flooding events
LRB	NA	1,100	3,200	Formerly a component of the BUB stock
SAB	4,200	2,900	3,100	Below average
Total	289,000	313,100	328,900	

- Observations of fall chinook at Bonneville Dam began on August 14 to determine bright/tule stock separation. Results are shown in the table below.

Fall Chinook Dam Counts					
		August 16 Daily	Cumulative through August 16		
			2000	1999	1995-1999 Average
Bonneville	Bright	1,021	11,858	6,441	6,830
	Tules	19	126	57	49
	Total Counts	1,040	11,984	6,498	6,879
The Dalles		810	6,479	3,346	2,632
John Day		500	3,144	1,987	1,429
McNary		322	1,766	1,203	874
Priest Rapids		175	505	532	285
Ice Harbor		13	34	22	31

Sport Fishery Updates

Sturgeon Fisheries

- Effort, catch, and CPUE in the lower Columbia sturgeon sport fishery through July are similar to recent years. The estimated catch for July of nearly 9,900 white sturgeon is similar to July totals in recent years.

Sturgeon Catch and Effort Through July in the Lower Columbia River Sport Fishery, 1994-2000				
<u>Year</u>	<u>Angler Trips</u>	<u>Legals Kept</u>	<u>CPUE Kept/Trip</u>	
2000 *	147,800	28,306	0.192	One fish bag all year, retention prohibited in estuary during April.
1999	137,700	28,500	0.207	One fish bag all year.
1998	150,700	31,200	0.207	One fish bag all year.
1997	145,600	27,300	0.187	One fish bag all year.
1996	135,200	32,100	0.237	Two fish bag (1 & 1 rule) prior to 4/1/96 and one fish bag thereafter.
1995	166,600	39,400	0.237	Two fish bag (1 & 1 rule) all year, fishery closed early.
1994	114,300	17,900	0.157	Two fish bag (1 & 1 rule) all year.

- Based on catch and effort data collected through August 13 the Joint Staff has projected that 4,850 white sturgeon will be landed in August. Total catch through August is projected to be 33,200 white sturgeon.
- Staff estimates that the 2000 sport sturgeon catch below Bonneville Dam will range between 38,000-41,000.

- As expected, sturgeon effort has dropped off dramatically with the onset of salmon seasons in the lower Columbia River. The sturgeon boat count on August 13 (Saturday) flight was only 35% of the average weekend boat count during July.
- Sturgeon fishing in the estuary remains good with catch rates similar to August of recent years at one legal kept per three anglers.
- Sport fishing in Bonneville and The Dalles pools is closed to the retention of sturgeon. John Day pool remains open to sturgeon retention until the guideline of 560 is achieved.
- Sturgeon catch in the John Day Pool through July is estimated to be 247 fish from 10,200 angler trips. CPUE in July was .045 and catch to date is up 56% from last year.

Salmonid Fisheries

- An estimated 3,200 hatchery steelhead were caught in the lower Columbia River during the month of July, which is the highest July catch since 1992. The number of wild steelhead released during July was nearly one wild fish for every hatchery fish kept which is consistent with the high proportion of wild steelhead crossing Bonneville Dam during that time.
- The Buoy 10 fishery opened August 1 for chinook and adipose fin marked coho with a 9,000 chinook mortality quota in place. Preliminary catch estimates through August 16 are 2,000 chinook and 4,700 coho from 18,900 angler trips.
- Mainstem Columbia (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for chinook and coho on August 1. The preliminary catch estimate through August 16 is 300 chinook and 2,000 hatchery steelhead. Since August 1 the proportion of wild steelhead has dropped to one wild fish for every two hatchery fish.
- At Drano Lake, effort and catch remain high for steelhead. Nearly 100 boats are counted on weekend days. Boat anglers averaged one steelhead per rod during Aug 7-13. Steelhead catches are also good in the Wind and White Salmon rivers.
- The sport fishery at the mouth of the Deschutes River has taken 150 hatchery steelhead and released 300 wild steelhead through July 31.

Commercial Fishery Updates

Lower River Fishery

- The number of deliveries in 2000 was 122 which is up from the 113 deliveries in 1999 and the 90 deliveries in 1998.
- Chinook were generally large with an average weight of 25 lbs per fish while sturgeon were similar to 1999 at 29 lbs per fish for white sturgeon and 40 lbs per fish for green sturgeon.

<i>Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Update</i>		
Species	Aug 3-4	Y.B.
Chinook	1,700	450
Coho	1	3
White Sturgeon	2,400	40
Green Sturgeon	500	0

- Preliminary stock composition estimates include about 30 SABs, 550 LRHs, 370 URBs, 120 BPHs, and 350 MCBs, with the remaining fish being spring/summer chinook and fall chinook jacks.
- About 4,800 white sturgeon remain on the non-Indian commercial catch guideline.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery was open August 1-2 (1 day), August 8-9, (1 day) and August 15-16 (1 day). Landings through the first three fishing periods totaled 348 chinook, 2 coho, and 33 white sturgeon.
- Through the first two periods a total 89% of the chinook sampled were SAB stock based on the 100% mark rate for this stock.
- Catch in this fishery for the season is expected to total 53,000 coho and 1,500 chinook.

Treaty Indian Sturgeon Fishery

- Treaty Indian commercial sturgeon catch guidelines have been met in Bonneville and The Dalles pools and the seasons are closed.
- The John Day Pool set line fishery was re-opened during August 8-20. The total catch through July in the John Day Pool of 517 is well within the 1,160 fish guideline.

Fishery Proposals

Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

<i>Proposed Season</i>	
Season:	8 PM Mon. Aug. 21 to 6 AM Tue. Aug. 22 (10 hrs) 8 PM Tue. Aug. 22 to 6 AM Wed. Aug. 23 (10 hrs) 8 PM Wed. Aug. 23 to 6 AM Thu. Aug. 24 (10 hrs)
Sanctuaries:	Enlarged Washougal sanctuary from Light 50 downstream to the lower end of Sand Island and the upper end of McGuire Island is in place.
Area:	Beacon Rock downstream to I-205 Bridge
Gear:	9-inch minimum and 9-3/4-inch maximum mesh size restrictions.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Catch Projections:	4,000-6,000 chinook 200-400 white sturgeon
Fishery Checkpoints:	Tue Aug. 22, Wed Aug. 23, and Thu Aug. 24

Rationale:

- Proposed fishery is consistent with 2000 Management Agreement.
- Fishery checkpoints will allow for inseason modifications as needed.
- Night-time fishing will reduce congestion and minimize sport commercial conflicts.

- Based on past monitoring results (294 drifts) 9-inch minimum mesh has been highly effective in reducing steelhead handle during the August time frame.

Below Bonneville Sport Sturgeon Fishery

- Currently adopted regulations prohibit the retention of sturgeon in the area from Buoy 10 to the Wauna powerlines (river mile 40) during September 1 through September 15.
- On July 25, ODFW and WDFW met with sport fishing industry leaders to discuss changes to previously adopted sturgeon retention restrictions.
- Based on industry input the Joint Staff developed the following recommendation.

<i>Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate currently adopted retention restriction in place for September 1-15.

Rationale:

- Proposed retention restriction would be consistent with the Joint State Sturgeon Accord.
- Staff recommendation is consistent with results of August 25 meeting with sport fishing industry leaders.

Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery

- The Columbia River treaty tribes may make a recommendation at the hearing.

Miscellaneous Regulations

Monofilament Gear

- Current regulations prohibit the use of single strand monofilament gear in all Columbia River commercial fisheries, including Select Area fisheries, with the lone exception being the Youngs Bay Select Area fishery.
- On August 15, ODFW and WDFW staff met with commercial fishery representatives to discuss the use of monofilament gear in mainstem commercial fisheries with the following results:
 - 1) Perform test fishery to compare selectivity (species and size) of single strand monofilament and multi-strand gillnets.
 - 2) Evaluate current regulations based on results of test fishery.
- Based on the results of this meeting Joint Staff has developed the following recommendations.

<i>Recommendations</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a test fishery to occur during the month of September. • No change to current regulations should occur at this time.

Rationale:

- Supported by commercial fishing representatives.

- Provides data to evaluate selectivity of gear types in relation to size and species of salmonids landed.

Next Compact Hearing

- The Joint Staff recommends that the next Compact be scheduled for September 7, 2000 at 1 PM at ODFW Headquarters Commission room in Portland to update salmon and steelhead stock status and consider treaty Indian and non-Indian fishing options.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
August 18, 2000